Vol. IV. Numb. 15

The EXAMINER.

From Friday *July* 3, to Monday *July* 6, 1713.

Ἐλπεδαν χρὴ πάντα.——— Linus.

THERE are no *Dupes* or *Bubbles* ſo wretched and inexcuſable as thoſe, who ſuffer themſelves to be impoſed upon in Matters of the laſt Conſequence, by a Charm and Deluſion of Words, at the very Inſtant, in which the Contrivers of the Cheat are acting in open Defiance to all they ſay. One would be apt to think, that Creatures, ſo Weak and Fooliſh, had their Senſes given them, not for Uſe but Diverſion; and were throughly perſuaded, that the *Pleaſure of being Cheated* extends not only to *Theatrical Amuſements*, but to all the important Concerns and moſt *ſerious Buſineſs* of Life. The gaping Wretch, who takes a *Moor-fields Mountebank* to be a *Publick-ſpirited Perſon*, the humble *Fortune-hunter*, who looks on a *Horary Philomath* as the *Oracle of Fate*, and the *kind Keeper*, who admires a fond wheadling *Miſtreſs* for her *Tenderneſs* and *Conſtancy*, are not more ſcandalouſly Stupid and Senſeleſs, or more worthy our Contempt and Compaſſion, than thoſe deplorable *Cullies of a Party*, who ſuffer a few Political Magicians, never heard of in the World till their own Vices and thoſe of their Faction brought them into publick Notice, to *Harraſs* and *Enſlave* them, under the pretence of *Moderation* and *Liberty*; to arm them againſt the *Church*, out of Zeal for *Religion*; to make them *Poor*, for the ſake of making them *Great*; to Ruin their *Peace*, with deſign to *Settle* the Nation; to give away their *Trade*, out of Reſpect to *Publick Credit*; to inſtil *Fears* and *Jealouſies*, upon a Principle of *Courage* and *Bravery*; and Inſult the *Crown*, by way of Compliment to the *Succeſſor*. It is Incredible that ſuch Abſurdities ſhould ever obtain in the World in an enlighten'd, improving, diſcovering Age: Amazement catches me, when I conſider how long theſe apparent Inconſiſtences between *Profeſſion* and *Practiſe*, *Principles* and *Actions*, have ſubſiſted together, without producing thoſe bleſſed Effects of Remorſe and Self-conviction, which, one would think, ſhould prevent the keeneſt *Examiner*, and naturally follow from the known Defects and Imbecility of *Self-contradiction*: Since an *Argument, divided againſt it ſelf*, can no more ſtand than a *Houſe* or a *Kingdom*. It is hard to imagine, how Intereſt and Prejudice, which give ſuch continual Employment to the diſcerning Faculties, ſhould be able to fix the whole Man ſo entirely upon one Object, and ſo wholly engroſs his Intentions and Appetites, as to render him perfectly Senſeleſs, Blind and Stupid, to every thing elſe; and reduce a whole Body of Men to the ſhameful Neceſſity of defending their Conduct, by Arguments, which of themſelves ſufficiently expoſe it; by telling of *Lyes*, calling of *Names*, and writing of *Ballads*.

But whilſt we pity and bewail the Circumſtances of thoſe wretched Bigots of a Party, who make perfect *Popery* of it, and give up their Senſes and their Intellectuals to their blind Guides, it is to be hoped, that there are vaſt Numbers among the *Whigs*, who do not conſider *Liberty* as a *Name*, a *Party-word* only, but as a *Bleſſing* and a *Duty*, which they ought to Aſſert, and may Enjoy without Dotage or Extravagance. It is to be hoped, that they will look upon *Liberty*, I mean the Subſtance of it, as conſiſting in entire Exemption from the Arbitrary Dictates of other Men, or of our over-treacherous Hearts and Paſſions, whenever they are found to be Inconſiſtent with ſuch Rules and Principles, as either *Reaſon* or *Revelation*, or both together have given us, for our own Good and the Good of Societies. This is true *Roman*, true *Engliſh*, and true *Chriſtian* Freedom. The *Whigs* act the Reverſe of this Character; they plead an Exemption from all Rule, from *Law* and *Goſpel*, that they may be more at leiſure to follow Men, weak and vicious as themſelves, or, which is as bad, to follow their own Luſts and Paſſions; and in this conſiſts the very Eſſence of all *Vaſſallage* and *Slavery*. It is to be hoped, that this *Liberty*, in its genuine Purity, ſhall no longer loſe Ground, nor ſee its Place uſurp'd by a *Spectre*, a *Phantom* in its Shape and Likeneſs. All we hope for is, that the miſtaken miſguided Followers of the *Whigs* would endeavour to get a clear Underſtanding and Knowledge of themſelves, and of thoſe, who, for ſo many Years, have had the Breeding and Conducting of them, and to form their Judgment, and regulate their Practice accordingly. This *Hope* we entertain and cheriſh; and we think no Indulgence or Moderation ill beſtow'd upon it: For *Hope*, of this ſort, includes in it all that *Charity*, which at other times is ſaid to ſurpaſs it by many Degrees. To this *Hope* we dedicate all the Labours of the Pen, and account it no unpleaſant Toil, to prove even the plaineſt Truths, to ſet the cleareſt Things in the ſtrongeſt Light, and endure all the Cavils, Calumnies, and vexatious Contradictions of Men void of all Good, both Private and Publick, and Rebrobates to Senſe and Conſcience, if we can but ever now and then win over a few Proſelites, not to *Men*, not to a *Party*, but to *Truth*, *Juſtice*, and *Honeſty*.

It is abſolutely neceſſary to a right Underſtanding of our true Intereſt, as we are *Political Creatures*, and Members of a Society, to know who are our beſt and ſincereſt Friends; that is, who are the beſt Friends to the Publick; and certainly this will be no very difficult Attaintment, when we come to try them in Extremities, and upon Affairs of the laſt Conſequence to the Repoſe and Welfare of the State. When we ſhall Examine impartially, what Uſe was made of all our Succeſſes in War, and how great a Difference there is between the Negotiations at the *Hague* or at *Gertruydenberg*, and thoſe at *Utrecht*, with regard to the *Britiſh* Intereſt; when we ſee Men neglecting the War in *Spain*, and afterwards inſiſting on it as the main Cauſe for which we Fought; when we ſee them refuſing the Offer of the *French* King (of which an *Authentick Copy* is now before me, the *Original* being tranſmitted to the *Hague* in *February* 1710) who would have given up *all Spain* to the *Archduke*, at a time when it was certainly

certainly for our Advantage to accept of it, and afterwards greedily catching at it, when it would have infallibly ſpoil'd the *Ballance of Power*, which was the main Cauſe of the War. What ſhall we ſay or think? Have we not reaſon to hope, that here and there a *Whig* will be convinced, that there were at that time Men, in Being and Power, who would have prolong'd the War, at the Expence, and to the Diſadvantage of their Country; and that to be Delivered out of their Hands, was much the ſame Bleſſing as to be *Delivered out of the Hands of our Enemies?*

It is of no leſs Conſequence to us, to be rightly inform'd of the real Intentions and Deſigns, not only of thoſe, who have taken care of what is *paſt*, and have ſecur'd to us all thoſe Bleſſings which we enjoy *at preſent*, but alſo of thoſe, who have provided for *what is to come:* Since every honeſt Man and good Subject is as much concern'd for his *Poſterity*, as for himſelf. When therefore we find the ſame Men, who took no care of the *Proteſtant Religion* at *Ryſwick*, who neither remov'd the *Pretender* out of *France*, nor diſabled him from being in a Condition to attempt an Invaſion, at a time when we were ſo very ſafe and formidable, as they would repreſent us to be, under their own Adminiſtration; when the ſame Men, who march'd under the Leading of thoſe, who had been the only Perſons in Power, *juſtly ſuſpected* of a Traiterous Correſpondence with the *Family* and *Court* of *St. Germains*. When they, who had almoſt ruin'd the *Church* of *England*, that Bullwark of the *Reformation*, ſhall accuſe thoſe, who have made amends for all theſe ſlips in the Conduct of their Predeceſſors, of want of Zeal for the *Proteſtant Religion* and *Succeſſion*, it is to be hoped, that every rational *Whig* will, in his cooler Intervals, not only acquit but applaud the *Accus'd*, and condemn the *Accuſers*. When he ſees every *Project* and *Propoſal*, which can be invented and offered for ſecuring the *Succeſſion* in the *Illuſtrious Houſe* of *Hanover*, not only cheerfully comply'd with, but induſtriouſly promoted by the Party, who are called *Papiſts* and *Jacobites*, he muſt be driven, by the force of Conviction, to conclude, that what the Men now in Power have done for the *Hanover Succeſſion*, proceeds from a ſincere Conſcience and unalterable Principle; and what their Enemies are contriving, and ſpreading abroad in Rumours and Reports, is the effect of Spite and Diſappointment, of a perverſe, contentious Humour; and an unjuſt, ill-grounded Jealouſie.

We may hope further, that the temperate, conſidering *Whigs*, will clearly perceive what is the true *Genius* of our People; and readily come into that bleſſed *Union* and *Peace at home*, which *Her Majeſty* hath expreſſed ſo great a Longing to accompliſh, and in which She ought to be Seconded by all *Her* loyal Subjects. When Contention, Calumny, Faction, and Party-Rage, have exerted their laſt Efforts, and ſpent their Venom to no purpoſe; when *repeated Tryals* ſhall have made it a Demonſtration, an unconteſted Truth, that the *honeſt Majority* of True *Britains*, of *Friends* to the *Church* and *Crown*, ſtill prevails; and not only keeps its ground, in ſpite of all Oppoſition, but grows, improves, and daily draws nearer to the only happy, effectual *Compreheſion*, we ought to wiſh for; it will, we preſume, be a difficult Matter to find a *Whig*, ſo bigotted to his Leaders, as to go on adhering to that monſtrous Abſurdity, which formerly prevail'd in the *Pamphlets* of the *Faction*, That all the *Generals*, *Politicians*, *Lawyers*, *Wits*, *Men of Merit*, and *Fine Gentlemen*, in any degree of Eminence, were only to be met with among their own Party.

As to the Notion of *Fine Gentlemen* among the *Whigs*, give me leave to produce an Inſtance of the great Scarcity of that ſort of Creatures, under which the *Party* at preſent labours; at leaſt I ſhall ſhew, what *Things* they are, which are called by this Name. When *his Excellency* the *French Ambaſſador*, made his *Publick Entry*, not one of theſe *Fine Gentlemen* ſent his *Coach* and *Equipage* to grace that Solemnity; which is no more than a Civility of courſe, and ſuch as is always paid to the *Repreſentatives* of *foreign States* and *Crowns*, on this occaſion: And yet theſe very Men had been liberal enough of their Attendance upon him at his *Maſquerades*, *Balls*, and *Entertainments*; had taſted very plentifully of his Wine, and devour'd his Sweetmeats in abundance: But whatever averſion they may pretend to have for the *Grand Monarch* and his *Religion*, one would think it ſhould get the better of their *Pleaſures* and *Appetites*, as well as of their *Manners* and *good Breeding*; or ſince their Perſons were in no danger at *Somerſet Houſe*, their Horſes and Servants might be ſuppos'd to run as little hazard of being perverted to *Popery*, by making a *Cavalcade* through the *City*. Had the *Tories* treated even thoſe *Miniſters* in this manner, who came over to Cabal with the Enemies of the Nation, and to embroil and perplex us, they had been repreſented as *Inhoſpitable*, *Unciviliz'd Barbarians*, whilſt Foreigners had been taught to ſay,

Viſam Britannos, *Hoſpitibus feros.*

But if ſome People will not give up their own *Poor*, their *Birth-right* and *Inheritance* to a Crew of Beggarly *Palatines*, they are a Rude, Ungenteel, Savage Race; whilſt others may violate the common Ties of Civility to *Crown'd Heads*, and yet have their Ill-Manners call'd *Affection for the* Proteſtant *Religion*.

Amidſt theſe and many other diſcouraging Simptoms, I ſtill entertain Hopes of the more Moderate *Whigs*, and the rather, becauſe *to Morrow* will convince us whether they are reſolved upon any ſort of Reformation or no. For their own ſakes, let me not be miſtaken, when I hope, they will neither diſobey *Her Majeſty* and the *Church*, in neglecting to obſerve that Day, nor mock *GOD*, by thanking him only with their Lips; nor yet give themſelves the Lye, whilſt they pray for *Peace at home*, and yet reſolve to perſiſt in the *Cauſe* of *Striſe* and *Confuſion*.

LONDON: Printed for *John Morphew*, near *Stationers-Hall*. 1713.